

WFSF WORLD FUTURES STUDIES FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

Where is the mainstream of futures studies for the 1980's?

"Limits to Growth", the first report to the Club of Rome, was published in March 1972. The United Nations and its members gave world-wide attention in June the same year to the problematique of the human environment at the Stockholm conference. The process leading up to these two major events created a mainstream of concern for the future and a framework for futures studies. Citizens in different countries rallied around the common cause to attempt a better understanding of nature's resources and of how to husband these resources in a sustainable way. Blueprint for survival, The Conserver Society and Voluntary Simplicity are some catch phrases illustrating this stream of future related activities. After "Limits to Growth" followed a series of modelling studies, the latest example being the Global 2000 study.

The Royal Swedish Adacemy of Sciences recently called a scientific conference in Rättvik in order to make a review of priorities for environmental research and management of evaluating ten years of work (see page 30-31 in this Newsletter). It is not astonishing to find that the priority list for research seems to be very similar to the message from the UN conference on the Human Environment. A few problems are not so bad as predicted, but not one is resolved. A priority list for the management of environmental problems is certainly

greatly needed. This important group of scientists has now produced such a list, which indicates areas considered manageable. But the list (and the attached comments) says nothing about how to reach the goals. The list continues to raise concern but does not provide the terms of the needed political actions.

For more than a decade the scientific community has produced many impressive future oriented papers on the use of our natural resources for consideration by governments and other decision-makers. The Rättvik conference is an example of how weak the link is with the political community in spite of all the efforts by environmentalists. The demands must be given practical expression if we are to see any significant results.

The common cause of the 1970's must not be abandoned but it needs new dimensions if we are to absorb the international realities of the 1980's. Is another mainstream for futures studies about to materialize?

There are quite a few indications that research and reports associated with a broader concept of work could constitute another mainstream of futures studies. After the Great Debate on Resources may a Great Debate on Employment follow? What are the combined effects on resources constraints and technical progress? Are we facing an industrial future where only a minority of people is employed? Do we have to live with a modernized poverty as Ivan Illich has maintained? Will it be possible to organize the economy giving everybody a share of employment while expanded free time will consist of both work without employment (community or neighbourhood economy) and leisure. In the first place we must - as soon as possible - establish an agreed international terminology for our discussion, i.e. the dual economy has in France a negative meaning ("A" and "B" working teams) while in other countries the dual economy is interpreted as formal versus informal work. Authors such as André Gorz and Pierre Rosanvallon in France, James Robertson and Jonathan Gershuny in UK, and Joseph Huber in Germany, have already made quite important contributions to discussions about the future of work. I hope that the WFSF Newsletter will be able to reflect more of those and similar studies in forthcoming issues.

Göran Bäckstrand

LA SOLEDAD DE AMERICA LATINA

por

Gabriel García Márquez

El fin de la Conferencia Nobel 1.982

"Un día como el de hoy, mi maestro William Faulkner dijo en este lugar: 'Me niego a admitir el fin del hombre'. No me sentiría digno de ocupar este sitio que fue suyo si no tuviera la conciencia plena de que por primera vez desde los orígenes de la humanidad, el desastre colosal que él se negaba a admitir hace 32 años es ahora nada más que una simple posibilidad científica. Ante esta realidad sobre cogedora que a través de todo el tiempo humano debió de parecer una utopía, los inventores de fábulas que todo lo creemos nos sentimos con el derecho de creer que todavía no es demasiado tarde para emprender la creación de la utopía contraria. Una nueva y arrasadora utopía de la vida, donde nadie pueda decidir por otros hasta la forma de morir, donde de veras sea cierto el amor y sea posible la felicidad, y donde las estirpes condenadas a cien años de soledad tengan por fin y para siempre una segunda oportunidad sobre la tierra."

- . -

THE SOLITUDE OF LATIN AMERICA

by

Gabriel García Márquez

The end of the Nobel Lecture 1982

"On a day like today, my master William Faulker said, 'I decline to accept the end of man'. I would feel unworthy of standing in this place that was his, if I were not fully aware that the colossal tragedy he refused to recognize thirty-two years ago is now, for the first time since the beginning of humanity, nothing more than a simple scientific possibility. Faced with this awesome reality that must have seemed a mere utopia through all of human time, we, the inventors of tales, who will believe anything, feel entitled to believe that it is not yet too late to engage in the creation of the opposite utopia. A new and sweeping utopia of life, where love will prove true and happiness be possible, and where the races condemned to one hundred years of solitude will have, at last and forever, a second opportunity on earth."

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Some Good News

The September issue of the Newsletter brought information from the VII Conference on Futures Studies. For those of you that are anxious to know about publications covering this event I am happy to confirm previous information. Frances Pinter Ltd has received a manuscript from William Page, who is responsible for editing this volume. We hope to have it printed within the next 6-8 months. The leading international journal in the field of political science "Policy Sciences" will publish a special issue from the Conference (Elsevier, 1983 Vol 15 No 3). "Seminar", the journal edited by Romesh Thapar in New Delhi, has already printed a special issue (Sept 1982).

Some More Good News

In the WFSF September Newsletter the editorial was written by C.S. Holling, Director of IIASA. In the Articles/Essays section of this Newsletter I reprint one of his contributions to IIASA's own journal "Options". I do this because he tells a story of good news, that "trajectories toward a life no one really wants are not irreversible". In this he continues the good tradition of Robert Jungk, who after the II World War started a Good News Bulletin. Such initiatives are certainly very much needed again.

Less Good News

When the WFSF secretariat was moved to Stockholm I undertook a commitment to serve for two years as the WFSF Secretary General. This engagement was made possible by an offer of the Swedish Secretariat for Futures Studies to make my working time available for WFSF responsibilities as well as to carry the main costs of the organization. The offer was made for one year with possible prolongation for another year. The prolongation was granted in May 1982 by the Swedish executive committee. This decision was, however, taken on condition that WFSF found supplementary financial resources to carry out its activity. (See Newsletter 3/82, Minutes of WFSF Assembly.) The Swedish and my own commitment will now come to an end during 1983. Work in the Swedish secretariat and other personal and practical reasons have made it impossible to renew the engagement much beyond the two-year period. I have thus informed the WFSF Council about the need to make new arrangements for editing the Newsletter and other services connected with the office of WFSF Secretary General. We are of course most interested to get to know all views that WFSF members may have in this respect.

All good wishes for 1983

Göran Bäckstrand

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* by authors Henryk Skolimowski, Axel Hörhager, Juleen Audrey Eichinger, Richard Kirschman and C.S. Holling.

"I have a feeling that when people from Latin America knock at the door in Europe the reaction is always a failure to understand ... This feeling may have a devastating effect on relations between Europe and Latin America ... Europeans have to make a real effort to understand that they do not understand."

Gabriel García Márquez in an interview published in the Swedish daily paper "Dagens Nyheter", December 12, 1982.

WFSF REPORTS

- o WFSF/UNESCO seminar in Taormina (Italy)
- o WFSF report from UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies, Mexico City

THE CHILD IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF LIFE, CRUCIAL ROLE OF MOTHERS IN PRE-SCHOLAR YEARS

Taormina (Sicily), 30th September - 3rd October

Organized by WFSF for UNESCO, with the cooperation of the Dept. for Cultural Exchanges of the Italian Ministry of Education .

The seminar was attended by 21 participants: 17 from Italy and 4 from the African countries around the Mediterranean, among whom experts in the field from various Italian Universities and from Research Institutes and Universities from Rabat, Tunis, Cairo.

The seminar was organized by Eleonora Masini and Anna Arista and was opened and chaired by Eleonora Masini, as President of the World Futures Studies Federation.

During the seminar, within the general framework given by women's condition and the change of women's role in modern society in its economic, social, cultural and religious aspects, the relationships between mother and child were analyzed.

The following aspects were presented:

1. pre-natal relationship between mother and child through working hypotheses were motorial and sensorial stimula find a link with the emotional which intervene between mother and child and through some preliminary hypotheses of different types of pregnancy experiences, according to the relation of the mother herself with her previous life;

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2. the relationship between mother and child at the moment of the birth;
3. the importance of the structures and institutions such as the day care, also from the arabic point of view, the nursery school, the structure of psychopedagogic health assistance in Italy such as the "Unità Sanitarie Locali" and the hospital as the place where the child is born and is looked after immediately after the birth;
4. the relationship between mother and child from the methodological point of view, stressing the symptoms of disturbances, as well as taking into account the "observation". On these same lines the results of a research carried out in Egypt on activities during the first two years of life were presented, as well as the various aspects from the psychosociological point of view of the relationship between mother and child in the arab countries;
5. the educational aspect, stressing the importance of the individual education of the teachers, as well as their education in relation to the parents of the children. Particularly the joint education was stressed for the mothers. This seemed a crucial aspect, and some concrete indications have emerged.

Further developments

- A. At the theoretical level: the need for a confrontation among different neurophysiological, psychoanalytical and psychosocial hypotheses presented, seemed very useful and important;
- B. it was requested to deepen the methodological aspects on how, when and with whom to operate, pointing out also the importance of the members of the family other than the mothers;
- C. many particular issues of the research carried out in Taormina have been indicated as topics for a further possible research, in relation to points 1-5.

Eleonora Masini

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UNESCO'S WORLD CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL POLICIES

Culture is not a luxury, nor an article for sale. Those two affirmations were common among the delegations from 154 countries present at UNESCO's meeting on cultural policies, held in Mexico City from July 26 to August 7.

UNESCO's most important meeting for over a decade took place to analyse and synthesise the experience acquired over the last years in the application of cultural policies, to review the reflection on culture, to reflect on cultural policy and action and to develop international cooperation.

Those attending the meeting focussed on the need for cultural identity and a consequent democracy between and in nations. Contemporary conflicts and the cultural policies which are their allies (e.g. Apartheid, and the economic dominance of the North which brings about a cultural invasion of the South) were condemned in various statements by prominent figures.

Melina Mercouri, Greek Minister of Culture, campaigned for the return of art treasures to their place of origin and for the alliance of poor countries to resist on slaughter of the rich's cultures. Her Spanish counterpart, Soledad Becerril, stated her own fear that the accessibility of new technology massifies and commercializes culture.

The structure of news business was another source of tension. Ernesto Cardenal, the Nicaraguan Minister of Culture, explained that 90 per cent of all news passes through North American hands and that Nicaraguan is now experiencing a news blockage. The Israel-Palestine war was also a main focus of attention and a resolution against zionist colonialism passed.

To many, the problema is summarized in "colonialism and neocolonialism", with the new communications technologies lending new efficiency to the economic and cultural colonisers. Both Armando Hart, Cuba's Minister of Culture and Jack Lang, his French equivalent, stated the problem in that way. Lang underlined the importance of the news agencies in this process.

The United States delegation denied the accusations of imperialism, lamenting that UNESCO's forum be used to discuss political problems and emphasising the United States government's firmly-held principle that the private sector should participate in the promotion of cultural activities.

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The official actions of the conference were to pass fifty odd resolutions, in which the ideas of the Mexican delegation, synthesising many delegations' positions, were present in strength. Mexico proposed that the crux of the matter was to change the focus of development itself, from production and growth to development of the human being's capacity for solidarity with other peoples, for fulfillment both individual and collective and to the preservation of nature.

The final declaration touched on the necessity of maintaining the world's many cultural identities, the essential task of humanizing the development process by maintaining people at its centre, the necessity to guarantee democracy as access to cultural life and resources, freedom of expression and the intellectual's and artist's role in society, the need to establish independent cultural industries in each country, and for greater international cooperation in order to strengthen peace and human rights and to eliminate colonialism, neocolonialism, racism and apartheid.

This will constitute UNESCO's programme for the next years, a programme which has been called "The New World Cultural Order".

Fernando Reyes Matta,
WFSF representative at
the UNESCO World Conference

ALL ABOUT MEMBERS AND THE SECRETARIAT

NEW WFSF MEMBERS

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REGARDING WHERE WE ARE AT IN FUTURE STUDIES
(In response to Michael Jefferson's contribution printed in
Newsletter 3/82)

Although I consider Jefferson's assessment of the VII WFSF conference rather harsh and one-sided, I welcome his intervention for it enables us to look deeper where we are at, and where we should be going.

Future Studies is a peculiar subject, a sui generis subject, let us be aware of that. Often I open my course on Alternative Futures, which I teach at the University of Michigan, by telling my students that, in a way, Future Studies is a fraud. This usually causes a consternation. Then I go to explain that you can only study what is or has been or was. What is to be you cannot study yet.

However, Future Studies proliferate and seem of vital importance to any viable future. Now, we redeem the possible fraud of Future Studies by an act of imagination. Future Studies is, in my opinion, a discipline which supremely calls for an act of imagination. This act must be then submitted to the relentless criticism of our knowledge; as well as to the demands of our values. There is no future studies without imagination; there is no future studies without an act of intelligent scrutiny which sorts out the chaff from the grain. Thus Future Studies are all encompassing, for they require imagination plus analytical scrutiny (within the constructed models of the future), plus considerable sensitivity to human values - for we are designing the future for human beings (endowed with three, four and sometimes five dimensions) and not for some abstract system, be it the techno-economic one, or even a complex cybernetic system of general systems theory. Any model of the future must ultimately show what are its existential bearings.

For the above reasons, I am not so convinced by Jefferson's insistence on research - you can research things to death; we are after new models of life. I must at the same time stress that I am not against research. What I am specifically for are new, original, creative insights. Papers given to such a gathering of thinkers as WFSF is composed of should be of high intellectual quality. This for me goes without saying; indeed there were some at the VII WFSF Conference which were merely a rehash of old ideas.

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Nor am I certain that we should be looking at more - rather than less - likely futures. If Future Studies teach us anything, it is that future is nearly always asymmetrical with regard to the past and the present. And so it will be with futures to come. I rather propose that we must be bold in anticipating and designing new futures which would better be not quite an extrapolation of the present - if we are not to strangle ourselves.

The most far reaching aspect and indeed the greatest service Future Studies can render is not only to build good models of the future but inspire people's imagination and fire their wills so that they would make a desirable future a reality. All social reality is human creation, born of human imagination and human aspirations, and forged in the smithy of human will.

Henryk Skolimowski
University of Michigan

THIRD WORLD FUTURE REVISITED

In spite of all the talk and effort, the development of the third world does not seem to be advancing along the path envisaged by those engaged in the field, especially the many large institutions both national and transnational. From Argentina to Zaïre, the picture is a gloomy one of food shortages, falling incomes, high inflation, corruption, debts, political dead ends, and a consequent lack of a sense of direction toward some kind of desirable future.

Are those the fruits of two decades of development aid? To be sure, much good will and expertise has gone into many third world countries, in an attempt to give them their place in the international economic system. In numerous instances real and lasting contributions have been made. Take for instance the field of general infrastructure and supporting services. Housing, roads, water supply, sewage systems have all witnessed successful projects. Local efforts have led to the emergence of a domestic construction industry able to take on difficult tasks. Electric power supply has often notably improved, and a considerable potential of domestic expertise has been created. Local resources of raw materials such as hydroelectric power or oil are being increasingly harnessed.

Success in the industrial field has been less straightforward. Many industrial projects, particularly large ones

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such as the joint venture cement plant in West Africa have proved to be white elephants, further weakening a sector already laboring hard under endemic inefficiency due to large state bureaucracies or trade barriers set up all over the world.

Perhaps the greatest challenge that has not been met is in agriculture, the most basic activity of all. While traditional societies managed to achieve certain equilibria, the modern approach has fallen far short of expectations as country after country is obliged to turn to imports to obtain enough basic foodstuffs to survive. Local production is less and less able to feed a growing population, and often is declining even in absolute terms. Many ambitious irrigation schemes have hardly led to any increased output, but have cost very large sums of money. Agricultural reforms have often ended in failure because of a wrong approach.

So despite many undeniable achievements, development as it stands today suffers from basic flaws. Countries cannot feed themselves, possess unviable industries, and are totally unable to cope with the legacy of debts left behind by misguided developers, be they local politicians, international lending institutions or commercially minded businessmen and bankers. Often the burden of debt is so great that even the interest payments by themselves completely throw a country's economic policy off course. Global repercussions are feared as more and more countries become bankrupt (Tanzania, Sudan, Zambia, Zaïre ...) or suffer severe liquidity crises (Mexico, Algeria, Brasil ...).

What of the "Future" under such circumstances? Apart from the understandable reaction that, since the modern approach appears to have failed, tradition should once again receive greater respect, one might quite simply conclude that it is time to return to essentials, to concentrate on small but concrete steps, however insignificant they might seem. Perhaps it is time to become more modest, to put off the grand designs and global visions, and focus instead on the day-to-day groundwork. As the options of alternative futures become increasingly difficult to envisage, since the problems of the present become more and more pressing, the realization of concrete steps acquires a signal value in reminding us that every journey is but made up of small, definitive steps. This is not to say that we should not have courageous ideas, on the contrary; but there should always be a positive answer to the here and now problem, be it an improved way of maintaining a road, an efficient way to use solar energy, or a new approach to regional planning. The inhabitant of the developing country will be the first to

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recognize the merits of planners and futurists who keep his daily life foremost in their minds. Perhaps the essential characteristic of successful development is a full commitment to practical detail, be it social, economic, technical, environmental.

Axel Hörhager

Dr Hörhager, a member of WFSF since its foundation, is an engineer and economist with a long experience in development aid as a consultant. He has worked on numerous assignments in many parts of the world. His present position is with the European Investment Bank, the long term development institution of the European Community.

THE FUTURE OF RELIGION

Has the Church fulfilled its mandate of ministering to the poor and oppressed of this world? Can it meet the social, political and economic needs of persons in our complex contemporary society? How can the thought of God be reconciled with the horror of certain aspects of modern history? At the Inter-University Centre for Post-graduate studies (IUC) in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, a group of scholars met this spring to reflect upon and debate the future of religion. "Religion Towards the Third Millenium: Alternative Solutions/Theory and Praxis" was the title of this sixth such seminar held at the IUC, from 19-30 April 1982. Among all the papers presented by resource persons at the course, a common theme emerged, viz., that religion - and specifically the Christian Church - today is in a state of crisis, the resolution of which is imperative if it is not to become a totally stagnant, fossilized institution whose teachings, morality and values are inapplicable to men and women in the contemporary world. Perspectives from the Catholic, Protestant and Marxist-Socialist worlds of debate were offered; alternative futures which neither compromised the core principles of religion nor left religion totally behind or aside.

The framework for lectures and discussion was set by Professor Rudolf J. Siebert (Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo), course director, on the first day. Discourse, he explained, must be understood as future-oriented remembrance of human suffering with the practical intent to diminish it. Such discourse is based upon the ideal speech situation and is anticipation of a communication community characterized by brotherly and sisterly communication without domination. Siebert elucidated three alternative post-modern,

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post-European and post-bourgeois futures which Hegel had anticipated in his critical theory of modern subject, family, society, state and culture: Future I, the totally administered society, highly mechanized and automated, moving like a machine in which individuals are merely means; Future II, a society continually involved in ever wider and more mechanized, automated wars, and Future III, a society of reason and freedom, in which all apocalyptic contradictions so evident in advanced capitalistic and socialistic societies (e.g. between humankind/nature, religious/secular, owner/worker, luxury/misery, etc.) will be reconciled. As for religion, Siebert concluded that a sublated religion would play an integrative, stabilizing, equilibrating, legitimating role in Future I, but a corrective role in Future III.

Professor S. Vrcan (University of Split), course co-director, noted an apparent opposition between contemporary developments in secular culture and religion (e.g. democratic tendencies vs. hierarchical ecclesiastical organization). In Yugoslavia, he maintained, both Christianity and Marxism have "crucified" themselves as they have become rigid ideologies; both have lost all dynamic, life and ability to offer hope for the future. A viable future must allow for a Christianity which converges with Marxism and imbues it with religious motivation. This is so especially on certain social and political issues on which the Church has traditionally maintained a strict silence. Vrcan hailed the recent papal encyclical Laborem Exercens as one recent move in Catholicism toward such a convergence.

Dr. Plačko (Institute for Social Research, Zagreb) focused specifically on the future of religious morality. Consistent with Vrcan, he stated that the morality of the Church and that of society are at odds, particularly in family and sexual matters but also in the social, economic and political realms. The "closed" morality which the Catholic Church has persisted in clinging to (i.e., an absolute, all-encompassing morality) must be supplanted by an "open" morality, which mandated the highest goals of humankind but is liberal and pluralistic about the means and stages individuals might use in order to achieve such ideals.

J.B. Metz (University of Münster) articulated perhaps most clearly a vision of the Christian Church of the future. He stressed that a Church which maintained itself in the face of gross social and human injustice, without acknowledging or speaking to the needs and pain of suffering victims, has no future. The suffering masses have no faith in councils, religious orders, theologians or teachers, he observed, for

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such groups are too closely bound to tradition and too closely identified with the oppressive power structure of the Church. Instead, change for the future must come from "below", from the "grass roots" level, as exemplified in the basic, community churches which have emerged in Third World countries, notably in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, and also in Poland.

G. Vahanian (Syracuse University, New York) offered perhaps the most radical alternative to the present crisis in religion. He emphasized that Christianity, as it has always been traditionally conceived, breeds a sense of tension and opposition in humankind. This is so because of its emphasis on salvation, which contains an inherent opposition between church/world, sacred/profane, God/human, earth/heaven, etc., which can never be fully and satisfactorily resolved. Even political and liberation theologies do not escape this dilemma, Vahanian maintained; they are merely new names for the traditional salvation theology. Only the death of God (understood as a cultural phenomenon, not a literal occurrence) can free humankind to a better, post-modern future. In such a post-modern and post-Christian religiosity, technology must become the overarching matrix through which humankind can overcome, eventually, its alienation from that which is Other than human. In such a world, there will be no dichotomy, no dualism; God will be an expression of humankind having come into its own, having experienced the full extent of human reality. The move toward such a post-Christian religiosity involves desacralization, sanctification of the world, and demythologization, yet these need not mean less religion; they can mean more. Religion, maintained Vahanian, is not full unless it is secular, unless it deals with the world.

Debate about the Future of Religion does not cease with the close of this course. The IUC will host a seventh seminar from April 18-30, 1983. Persons interested in "Modern Scientific and Social Revolutions and the Problem of God" should contact Rudolf J. Siebert, Department of Religion, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI 49008, U.S.A. Participants and resource persons from the worlds of Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism are welcomed and solicited, to the end of making the next seminar ever more universal and global.

Juleen Audrey Eichinger
4 June 1982
Kalamazoo, Michigan

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PRECIOUS HOSTAGES

(Inexpensive Security in a Nuclear World)

Americans and Russians have been negotiating on and off with each other for over thirty years to make the world safer and have failed miserably. While we both give lip service to the notion that nuclear war is unthinkable, we both continue to argue that further increases in military strength are needed to make the world more secure. The hundreds of billions of dollars we are each now spending yearly on armaments damages both of our economies and wasters money better spent on other things. Even those who believe that military might is a shield are troubled by a higher stakes world with other 50 000 nuclear weapons and growing. The simple truth is that there are more weapons than ever before, and the world is a more, not less, dangerous place to live. The distrust between our two countries is so profound and our reliance on arms for "security" to complete that no plan requiring one side to trust the other is given serious attention by those who make policy. What is so desperately needed is some form of non-lethal security that can substitute for our reliance on weaponry. Some plan whose ability to deter attack will become trustable enough that each side will independently decide that massive armaments are no longer necessary. There is, I propose, an inexpensive and rapid way to accomplish this.

Suppose one young member from each of the most influential families in the United States was sent for an all-expense-paid period of study, work or travel to the Soviet Union and the Russians sent an equal number of young people to study, work and travel here. I am thinking of young people from the families of:

- The President of the United States
- The Vice President
- All the Cabinet members
- All members of Congress
- The most senior 2 500 Generals and Admirals
- The 30 most senior officers and board members of the country's 1 000 largest corporations
- The members of the legislatures of the 50 states
- The Governors of the 50 states
- All Federal Supreme Court and Appellate Court Judges
- All State Supreme Court Judges
- The top 20 commentators and personalities from each of the three major networks
- The publishers and editors of our 500 largest newspapers and magazines

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- The top 20 people in the FBI, the CIA and National Security Agency
- The 20 most senior officials of our top 50 labor unions
- The Presidents and Department Heads of our 100 largest Universities
- All living Ex-Presidents and Ex-Senators
- All of our Nobel Prize winners
- 10 top leaders from each of our 50 largest religious groups
- Our 100 most famous sports figures
- Our 100 most celebrated film stars
- Our 100 most acclaimed musicians
- Our 100 most successful writers
- The 20 most senior officials from 100 "other" influential groups such as The Rand Corporation, the Moral Majority, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Heritage Foundation, the Ford Foundation, etc.

The Russians would match this list with an equal number of their young people representing a similar cross section of their power structure's families.

I have calculated that in the United States there are about 42 000 families in all of these categories. At an average of two young people per family we would have a pool of over 80 000 from which to draw. Under the plan they would be free to come and go as they pleased as long as say a quarter or 20 000 of them were on exchange status at any given time. If we allotted say \$50 000 per year per person so that everyone could travel and live well, the program would cost each side one billion dollars annually. This is less than one half of one percent of what we will spend this year for military "security" in the name of deterring World War III. A bargain by anyone's standards.

It may seem a somewhat cynical commentary on human nature to say this, but there is no way that anyone is going to drop nuclear weapons on the other while the children of both sides' most influential families are at ground zero. No way at all. What has happened is that we have introduced a powerful new ingredient into Russian-American relations that may prove in time to be a more reliable deterrent to nuclear war than the weapons madness we are now relying on. No one has asked the other side to trust them. There has been no call for arms limitations or disarmament. There has only been the posting of additional security.

Utopian say the skeptics. An intriguing idea that cannot work in the real world. Perhaps, but consider just one

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possible scenario. First the plan gets a bit of exposure and people begin to discuss it. Then a few young people from the "eligible" 42 000 families come forward, as some of them will surely do, and say "hell yes, I'd go if there was such a program, \$50 000 is a lot of money, the experience will be fantastic and this is an extraordinary way to stand up and be counted!" Besides, exclusivity has a certain appeal and this would certainly be one of the world's more exclusive lists on which to be included. After these initial few come forward there will be an irresistible desire on the part of family and friends to ask other "eligible" young people how they would feel about going if there really was such a program. More importantly, journalists will begin asking such questions. At this stage the idea has made the transition from the "Utopian" to the possible and the principal question will have become ... "why not?"

And there are some interesting bonus benefits to the plan as well. Irrespective of the claims for opportunity in free enterprise systems or classless societies, the children of powerful and influential people tend to grow into more powerful and influential lives than their working-class counterparts. It will do no harm at all if the future leaders of both our countries speak some of each other's language, know something of each other's culture and have high level friends in "the enemy camp". Truthfully, these young people are in fact hostages. Hostages so precious that their mere existence will provide better insurance against nuclear war than we are now getting for our money. We are also buying time. Time to feel safe from each other long enough to devalue nuclear weapons as a deterrent. Time to believe that something besides atomic bombs makes it safe to sleep at night. We need a safer form of peace insurance so that we can go on pulling and tugging at each other around the world without the risk of Armageddon.

Richard Kirschman
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Point Reyes Station,
CA 94956
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ESSAYS/ARTICLES

Director's Corner: *One Very Human Microcosm*



IIASA has focused largely on issues at national and global scales. Sometimes lost in this perspective, however, is the personal element so critical for the resolution of any real problem, regardless of scale. The key role of singular individuals is well illustrated in the Obergurgl story, a small but illuminating chapter from IIASA's first decade of experience. I recently had the opportunity to bring myself up to date with this continuing story, and to understand better how IIASA has been used as part of a solution in one very human microcosm of today's world.

Obergurgl is 1930 meters above sea level in the Austrian Tyrol and has a population of 310. About ten percent of its narrow valley is usable land; the rest angles into mountains. The villagers have the adaptive reflexes of mountain people everywhere: their environment is an ever-changing one; they live more or less upon its terms.

Over the centuries, the villagers have experienced unexpected events, opportunities, and pressures. Their climate has shifted. Their economic setting has been transformed. Their society has changed. In 1850, when the population soared and taxed available resources, marriage was forbidden. There is a history of change — and adaptation.

The postwar explosion of tourism challenged the village with new pressures. The people of Obergurgl adapted once more, this time entrepreneurially. They built hotels, cleared ski runs, added lifts, and grasped the new and financially rewarding opportunities. But it is in the nature of things that one day's solution is another's problem; and so it has been in Obergurgl.

For it was not very long before the younger villagers, spurred by the sudden wealth of their elders, developed expectations of wealth for themselves: one worked hard until one was about thirty to accumulate sufficient capital to build a hotel of one's own. For a time, hotels and related facilities proliferated rapidly. By 1972, visitors could choose from scores of places to stay, and be towed skiward on more than a dozen lifts.

But in the early 1970s, the pervasive

and growing concern over environmental quality began to touch the collective consciousness of Obergurgl. It began with a deep sense of unease, with the fear that the very characteristics that had attracted tourists to the village were being destroyed by such energetic development. And the problems were deeper than just those of environmental degradation. Economic guarantees eroded. Hotels were proposed in areas that were economically infeasible. And, as the rising expectations of one generation began to be thwarted, conflicts developed between young and old. Fathers had to tell their sons, "We've reached our limits, there is no more for you."

At the same time, the valley's farmers, who for generations had squeezed subsistence from the hard flanks of the mountain, became increasingly conscious that they were not sharing in this new wealth.

Thus, Obergurgl became a microcosm of the larger world, in which tensions arise from converging resource limitations, rapid economic development, and social and demographic conflicts. The entrepreneurial adaptation of the villagers had become a trap, a predictable trajectory toward something they did not want.

Now the key individual, Dr. Walter Moser, enters the picture. At the time, he ran a University of Innsbruck botanical research station overlooking the village. He saw its problems and where the present currents must carry the village and its enterprising people. And so he moved to change the balance of forces at work there.

He did *not* enter searching for solutions. He made no pretense there was any panacea in their simply returning to the past. Nor did he want to freeze this Alpine world in a pastoral museum, a single frame of time. He wanted instead to help the people of Obergurgl pause so that the strong adaptive capacities they had used for centuries could re-emerge. He perceived clearly that ten or twenty years away there would be a new burst of demand, of technology, of opportunity that would spawn still another class of problems.

To create this pause for reflection, Moser used science, he used systems analysis, he used IIASA and the interactive approaches we've developed. But the basis of everything he did was interaction with the individuals, interaction in *Heurigen*, offices, and homes: gentle efforts to have the villagers agree to a demonstration of the model they developed with IIASA. At the heart of all he did was the encouragement of interaction among the people with the problem. And it worked.

It worked not because of the model or even the very careful way in which the villagers were involved. It was rather the immense investment of that one individual in communicating, interacting, establishing the necessary conditions for communication, in order to highlight conflicts and to defuse them.

What have been the positive consequences of these efforts? The wealthy people of the village subsidized farmers so that they could still farm, not as an act of charity, but as a newly focused perception of the essential, honorable role the farmers have in the life and success of the village. Another fund was established to support the University of Innsbruck's continuing research on the problems.

And then, we have the Obergurgl experience percolating out to other villages, so that the lessons have been applied in village after village in the Alps, and continue to be applied at second-, third-, and fourth-order levels.

Obergurgl is good news. It shows that new combinations are possible, that trajectories toward a life no one really wants are not irreversible. It shows it is possible to pause before some point of no return is reached, long enough to have our adaptive reflexes shape a response to change. From Obergurgl, from this Alpine microcosm, we know it works within a world of villages. Perhaps it could work in a world of collectives.

But, one wonders less optimistically, how can it be made to work in a world of nations? The question is worth asking.

C.S. Holling

ORGANIZATIONS

CROSSCURRENTS INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE

"Crosscurrents' goal is to help promote an international climate for peace and human development. For both practical and symbolic reasons, we seek to remain small, identifying special needs and unique opportunities in the international field and working with other institutions toward goals that are consistent with the broad purpose of the institute.

The goal of Crosscurrents is to collaborate with institutions in other countries, as well as with U.S. institutions, and to seek out "entrepreneurs" of ideas and skills in areas of international cooperation. The institute will concentrate on small projects which can be mounted with limited resources, but which can have significant results with proper timing and circumstances.

Crosscurrents is committed to holistic thinking about critical world issues. Framing workable solutions for problems requires many different perspectives; single answers are seldom adequate to the world's complexities and interdependencies. We also believe that we should operate in a risk-taking mode, accepting failures as a necessary part of learning."

For further information:

Dr. William P. Shaw
President
CROSSCURRENTS International Institute
5335 Far Hills Avenue - Suite 300
Dayton, Ohio 45429-2382, USA
Phone: (513) 434 1909

THE SOCIETY FOR SOFT TECHNOLOGY

The Finnish Society for Soft Technology (Pehmeän Teknologian Seura), an organization with no political party affiliations, was founded in May, 1977. Its aims are:

- o to collect, develop and spread knowledge about energy- and resource-saving techniques, methods of production and way of life;
- o to work for utilizing natural resources more justly globally, locally and with regard to future;

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- o to help in developing a more human society which is in harmony with nature.

The Society publishes a magazine entitled 'Pehmeä Teknologia' (Soft Technology) and a publication series, which includes several booklets discussing various aspects of the subject. It also organizes meetings and symposiums to discuss current questions of various fields of soft technology. In addition, the society is involved in practical projects by bringing together people who are interested in the same subject.

The Society for Soft Technology has many international contacts, and it works in co-operation with several environmental and alternative organizations. It also maintains in co-operation with other organizations an information centre, which provides literature, video and tape recordings, materials for exhibition, and lecturers for various occasions, schools, libraries etc.

For further information:

The Society for Soft Technology in Finland
Yrjönkatu 29 A 4
SF-00100 Helsinki 10
Finland

ACTIVITIES

ALTERNATIVE NOBEL PRIZE

The leader of the West German "Green" movement, a Malaysian consumers activist, a British educational pioneer and Asian grass roots development group share the 1982 \$50 000 Right Livelihood Award. The new 'alternative Nobel' award is presented in Stockholm on the day before the official Nobel Prize ceremony.

The winners of this year's award are:

- o Petra Kelly, leader of the West German "GREENS", the rapidly growing environmental and peace movement which has transformed the German political scene;
- o Anwar Fazal, founder of Consumer Interpol, an investigative network to report on and take action against the export and sale of hazardous products;
- o Sir George Trevelyan, a pioneer of adult education in Britain and founder of the Wrekin Trust, which brings together scientists and mystics, doctors and healers, etc. in order to bring about "an evolutionary leap in human consciousness";
- o The Participatory Institute for Development Alternatives (PIDA), a group working to multiply grass root self-reliant development in rural Asia.

For the first time a special honorary citation will also be awarded. It goes to Erik Dammann, the Norwegian founder of the Future in Our Hands network whose members work together to reduce and change their consumption habits in order to help the poor and minimize the environmental impact.

For further information:
The Right Livelihood Foundation
Viking House, Wybourn Drive
Onchan, Isle of Man
British Isles

ACTIVITIES

SOME EXTRACTS FROM INDIAN COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT & FUTURE ACTIVITY

"The Second National Futurology Convention organised by the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University and the Indian Council of Management & Future (ICMF), Hyderabad Chapter in its deliberations held in Hyderabad during May 2nd to 4th in which more than 60 experts and Futurologists took part, hereby views and recommends as follows:

The Convention recognises that time-bound future studies for each department should be completed quickly, say, before the end of 1983 and accordingly recommends to Governments of the States and at the Centre to initiate Task Forces, where it has not already been done, to fulfil the above objectives and prepare a 20 year long perspective plan.

It is understood that the UGC will consider concrete proposals from a few Universities and Colleges to set up "Futurology Cells" during the Sixth Five Year Plan. The Convention would like to bring this to the notice of all the Vice-Chancellors in the country.

Education

There is need to bring the student back to his environment, to make him participate in the teaching-learning process and to explore the possibility of students becoming nearer to decision-making of the Education environment. There is also need to permit departures from the written syllabus in Text books to introduce field work for the student so that he is not out off from the environment from which he comes.

Research

The Convention recommends the setting up of an Open University, if possible in each State, or at least in each region in order to increase the facilities for Continuing Education. The use of modern technology, including Radio and Television, as a major component of the methodology of teaching in the University is advocated.

Technology

India should no doubt take pages out of foreign technological books. But its own book of technology should not be full of such pages. The Central Government must set up a national agency to control, absorb and endogenise the imported techniques and technologies."

ACTIVITIES

For further information:

Dr. S.C. Seth
Government of India
Department of Science & Technology
Technology Bhavar
New Mehrauli Road
New Delhi 110016, India

INTERNATIONAL BIOSCIENCES NETWORKS - IBN

1. There is an urgent need to train more biologists for the developing countries and to help these countries to build up their scientific infrastructure so that they are better able to undertake their own research on the pressing problems in agriculture, food production, medicine and appropriate areas of biotechnology that confront them.
2. It is believed that this need can best be met through the institution of networks of research centres which can arrange co-operative training and thus enable the most highly developed countries in each region to strengthen their research capability and that of their less-developed neighbours.
3. Such networks should operate autonomously and should be organized and funded on a regional basis.
4. Stress is laid on the importance of determining research priorities correctly in relation to the special problems of each region in order that maximum economic and social impact may be achieved.
5. The IBN has been set up jointly by the International Council of Scientific Unions and Unesco, so that biologists throughout the world may contribute more effectively to a rapid application of recent advances in biological knowledge for the benefit of all mankind.
6. The current activities and plans for the future of the Bioscience Networks already in being in Latin America and Asia, and in the process of being set up in Africa and the Arab States, are described in outline.
7. The long term funding requirements of the IBN are discussed and it is concluded that present expenditure on the training of biologists for the developing countries is far from commensurate with their needs.

ACTIVITIES

For further information:

ICSU
51, Boulevard de Montmorency
75016 PARIS, France
Telex ICSU 630 553 F - Tel.: 525 03 29

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION "FUTURES RESEARCH"

Officers of Research Committee 7 on Futures Research:

- o Igor Bestuzhev-Lada, (Chairperson)
Social Forecasting, Soviet Sociological Association
Novocheremushkinkaya uc.
46 Moscow 117418, URSS
- o Eleonora Masini, (President)
WFSF CP 6203 Roma Prati, Italy
- o Andrzej Sicinski, (Vice-chairperson)
Polish Academy of Sciences
Klaudyny 16-160
01-684 Warszawa, Poland
- o Anna Coen, (Secretary)
via di Villa Albani
26 A Roma 00198, Italy
- o Marcin Swiecicki, (Vice-Secretary)
Dragonska 6-44 Warszawa 00467, Poland

Membership and Dues: the Research Committee "Futures Research" wishes to invite members of ISA who have explicit interest in this area to join us. Applications can be presented to the Officers on the attached membership form. To develop our activities and to simplify our accounting we would appreciate your payment of dues for a two-years period. The dues are: 15 \$ for the two years term to the order of Anna Coen account 2069 Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, agenzia 5, piazza Fiume, Roma.

NORTH-SOUTH ROUND TABLE (Excerpts from the Oiso Declaration)

"We, therefore, propose to take up a suggestion originally made by Soedjatmoko, Rector of the UN University, and to

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assemble a group under the umbrella of SID/NSRT/UNU to prepare a candid Report on the State of the Human Condition."

"We intend to spread the message of such a report to every indifferent politician, to the largely passive media, and, most important of all, to the people of this planet, who must all start getting mad and who must finally issue a loud scream of protest which alone can move governments to act. Like the disarmament issue, the development issue must also be converted into a people's movement, and the Society for International Development, in collaboration with all likeminded forums, is determined to play its role in this effort.

In the meantime we cannot afford to be paralyzed into action. A search for concrete action must go on in each and every forum that has a chance to succeed. We have discussed a large number of specific proposals which will be included in our final report, but we particularly invite attention to a selected agenda of action which is both urgent and feasible.

Some of these actions can start - in fact, must start - without waiting for all nations to join the effort initially; other actions will require a broader consensus.

Among the many proposals which emerged in our detailed deliberations over the last three days, we particularly wish to direct attention to the following principal ones;

1. Setting up an international energy financing facility, within or outside the World Bank, with contributions from any willing governments and private banks, to finance the urgently needed energy investments of the oil-importing developing countries.
2. More interaction with national governments on the strategy and design of national energy plans through NSRT country dialogue missions and far more work on the hitherto neglected area of the food-energy nexus through the UN University.
3. Establishment of a developing-country-owned food grain reserve of 9 to 12 million tons to provide international food security to poor nations in any emergency situation; strengthening developing countries' own capacity to feed themselves over time without outside dependence, through financial assistance for accelerated programs of food production, with particular support to small farmers; and designing a nutrition and health safety net for 200 million

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pregnant and nursing mothers and for 500 million small children."

4. "Establishment of a crash program for reforestation through a special international project to be called TREE (Training, Research, Environment, and Education).
5. Effective use of the November, 1982 GATT ministerial-level negotiations by the developing countries to secure agreement on (a) a firm political declaration of a stand-still on any further increase in trade restrictions; (b) an understanding on furnishing the Tokyo Round of negotiations, particularly finalizing the safeguard clause; and (c) initiating the launching of a long-term program of trade liberalization through a small, specialized forum like the Committee of 20 and involving the joint cooperation of GATT and UNCTAD. In order to secure these advances, the developing countries should be prepared to offer some concessions in the area of the Generalized System of Preferences, reciprocity, and their own restrictive trade practices.
6. At the very minimum, doubling the present IMF quotas, and urging their readjustment in favor of poorer nations, since current quotas now finance only 3 % of world trade compared with 16 % about thirtyfour years ago.
7. A fundamental revision in the policy conditionality of IMF lending, which should include:
 - (a) low conditionality for poorer countries, with an automatic provision for refinancing in case of deterioration of the external environment;
 - (b) consolidation of the presently multiplying Fund facilities so that performance criteria apply to overall country performance and not to individual products or specific means;
 - (c) merger of the IMF's extended fund facility and the World Bank's structural adjustment lending; and
 - (d) greater pressure on surplus countries to adjust, thereby making it easier for deficit countries to carry their own legitimate burden of adjustment.
8. Establishment of a special facility in the IMF for facilitation orderly refinancing of the accumulating debts of the developing countries, treating some of these debts as debts of duress undertaken in lieu of any satisfactory system of distribution of international liquidity."

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9. "Reaching a new agreement on the annual creation of Special Drawing Rights and on their distribution of such a fashion that the surplus countries which are unwilling to adjust will lose their SDRs to deficit countries, which are currently obliged to carry a much greater burden of adjustment.
10. Setting up a special concessional assistance window, either in the World Bank or outside, to supplement the seventh replenishment of the International Development Association by inviting additional contributions from willing nations and by setting up a different policy and voting structure in such a new facility.
11. Doubling the present IBRD capital of \$ 40 billion, with a paid-in contribution of at least 10 % to 20 % cost-free capital, so as to enhance the ability of the World Bank to cushion the developing countries against the high interest rates in the capital markets.
12. Setting up by the World Bank of an independent group of thinkers to advise it, without institutional constraints, on its future evolution, including the mobilization of some truly international sources of finance (such as the SDR-link) to partially liberate the World Bank from its present absolute dependence on the goodwill of a few bilateral nations.

We have focused only on actions which we believe have a promising prospect, if we can manage to convince the governments of the mutual gains that would result from world economic recovery. All these proposals require further professional analysis and concrete blueprints. The Roundtable has already undertaken studies on some of these proposals and will be doing further work on several of them in collaboration with other organizations and institutes.

But let us be candid. While these actions will provide some immediate relief, they will not solve deeper crises in social structures and institutions. These actions will still proceed largely within existing international structures, without developing new ones to accommodate the changing needs of mankind.

There is no divinity about present structures. They were created by human imagination. They must also be changed by human vision."

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A Second Bretton Woods Conference

"We believe it is time for a deep and fundamental examination of the institutions created at Bretton Woods, both to consider their future evolution and to examine the possibility of new institutions better suited to our changing needs and to the future balance of economic and political power.

We therefore strongly recommend the convening of a Second Bretton Woods Conference, possibly in 1983 but certainly before the end of 1984.

In order to do the intellectual spadework for such a conference, the NSRT will organize a small roundtable of fifteen to twenty leading monetary, financial, and development experts to prepare a concrete blueprint for future change. This group will consider many proposals heard in our deliberations on this issue.

We have heard some proposals for the creation of a World Central Bank, as a lender of last resort and as a funder of international assistance and other UN initiatives.

We have heard pleas for a gradual phase-out of the U.S. dollar in favor of a genuine international currency, internationally created, managed, and distributed.

We have heard proposals for a merger of the World Bank and the IMF into a single institution, with changed policy conditionality and more democratized control.

We believe that these and many other ideas deserve a very thoughtful examination.

This is what the Roundtable on the future of Bretton Woods institutions will attempt.

And we hope that the demand for a Second Bretton Woods Conference will gather momentum until it becomes an irresistible force.

Thirty-six years ago, such a conference came after the world crisis had struck in all its fury.

It will be a tribute to human courage and human sanity if this time such a conference is held before the gathering international crisis finally unleashes its full force and its unspeakable human misery."

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" We are certainly discouraged by current world events. We are not even sure that our voices will be heard. But we must try once more. For the greatest failure at a time like this will be a failure of our own courage."

For further information:
Roundtable Secretariat
1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036 (USA)
Telephone (202)234-8701
Cable: OVERCON

THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Over 30 scientists from a wide variety of scientific disciplines and countries around the world have met in Rättvik, Sweden to discuss environmental research and management priorities for the 1980's.

In the decade since that 1972 conference, governments have met annually in regional and global international organizations to review the world situation and establish environment research and management priorities to guide national and international action programmes. The purpose of the conference in Rättvik was to provide an opportunity for undertaking a similar review and assessment of priorities from a strictly scientific perspective.

The conference addressed three fundamental questions:

- o What environmental problems are inadequately understood and urgently require intensive scientific research?
- o What problems are well enough understood on a scientific basis but urgently require new efforts in order to manage them effectively?
- o What are the priorities among these problems both for environmental research and management in the 1980's?

There was general agreement among the participating scientists on the following ten environmental research priorities and ten environmental management priorities for the 1980's.

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Environmental Research Priorities

- o Depletion of the Tropical Forests
- o Loss of Biological Diversity
- o Cryptic Spread of Mutant Genes due to Radiation and Chemicals
- o Droughts and Floods
- o Acid Deposition
- o CO₂ Build-up and Climate Change
- o Impact of Hazardous Substances on Ecosystems and Man
- o Loss of Productive Land as a Result of Salinization
- o Impact of Urbanization
- o Meeting Current and Future Energy Needs

Environmental Management Priorities

- o Management of Hazardous Chemicals, Processes and Waste
- o Depletion of the Tropical Forests
- o Desertification and Overgrazing
- o Control of Pathogens from Human Waste and Their Aquatic Vectors
- o Population Growth and Urbanization
- o River Basin Management
- o Acid Deposition
- o Species Loss
- o Protection of the Marine Environment
- o Fuelwood Crisis

These issues, in the view of the participating scientists, were the principal priorities for the 1980's. The conference considered many other environmental issues which, though not on the above priority lists, were also considered extremely important. But, it was agreed, while a much larger number of environmental problems had to be dealt with during the 1980's, those on the above lists deserved and should receive priority attention.

For further information:

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
Box 50005
S-104 05 Stockholm (Sweden)
Telephone (08) 15 04 30

MEETINGS

INTERDEPENDENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE: THE PROMISES AND LIMITATIONS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Date: April 11-15, 1983

Place: Tunis, Tunisia

Congress Agenda:

1. Policy and organization of science and technology in development.
2. Development of human resources in science and technology in development.
3. Creation of an awareness of the potential of science and technology in development.
4. Integration of modern and traditional technologies for development.
5. Role of public and private multi-national enterprises in the creation and strengthening of endogenous science and technology capacities in developing countries.
6. Role of the scientific and technological non-governmental organisations in development.

For further information:

Confederation of International Scientific and Technological Organizations for Development (CISTOD)

51, Bd de Montmorency
75016 Paris

France

Telephone: 525 03 29

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FORECASTING

Theme: "Pragmatic Research"

Date: June 5-8, 1983

Place: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Sponsored by The International Institute of Forecasters in collaboration with the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

For further information:

Professor J. Scott Armstrong
Wharton School

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA

MEETINGS

THE SOCIETY FOR INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Date: May 10-15, 1983

Hosted by Intercultura at the Intercultural Centre, San Gimignano, Italy.

Theme: Intercultural Perspectives in Today's World

Key contemporary issues have been retained as conference subthemes:

- o Managing intercultural conflict in the changing world.
- o Recent advances in intercultural awareness and intercultural research.
- o Intercultural aspects of urban and rural life.
- o Formal and non-formal education in multicultural environments.
- o Cultural synergy of Eastern and Western Europe.
- o Third World approaches to development.
- o Intercultural communication through the arts and architecture.
- o The creation of new cultures through alternative lifestyles.
- o Youth exchange and intercultural learning.
- o Cultural synergy in public and private organisations.
- o Intercultural aspects of New Communication Technology.
- o Cultural implications of the technology transfer.

For general information concerning SIETAR please write to or call the following address:

The Society for Intercultural Education

Training and Research

1414 Twenty-Second Street, N.W.

Suite 102

Washington, D.C. 20037, USA

Telephone: (202) 862 1990

WORLD SOCIAL PROSPECTS STUDY ASSOCIATION Second Congress

Date: January 31 - February 4, 1983

Place: Caracas, Venezuela

Theme: Social Progress for World Solidarity

There are five main items on the agenda:

- o Contributions of Simon Bolivar to 200 years of social

MEETINGS

- progress
- o The world of work and the development of intelligence
- o The social consequences of rapid urbanisation
- o Solidarity contracts for international social justice
- o Will the present energy crisis help towards world solidarity

This congress will take place under the auspices of the Government of Venezuela and the patronage of President Herrera Campins.

For further information:

AMPS
c/o International Institute of Labour Studies
Case postale 6
CH-1211 Geneva 22
Switzerland

COURSES

INTER-UNIVERSITY CENTER OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES, DUBROVNIK

Courses:

April 5-15, 1983

FUTURES STUDIES

BUILDING ALTERNATIVE FUTURES

Directors: Eleonora Masini (World Futures Studies Federation, Rome), Rudmilla Nakarada (Beograd)

April 18-30, 1983

FUTURE OF RELIGION:

MODERN SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIAL REVOLUTIONS AND THE PROBLEM OF GOD

Directors: Rudolf J. Siebert and Ms. Juleen Eichinger (Western Michigan University), Srdan Vrcan, N. Gerald Saenk (Zagreb)

For further information:

Inter-University Centre for Postgraduate Studies
Frana Bulića 4
YU-50 000 Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia

PUBLICATIONS/BOOKS

ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTION

The publication "A list of international contacts on "alternative production" (i.e. conversion to a more peaceful and socially useful production), compiled by Jacob Bomann-Larsen, has now been revised.

Content:

Introduction/The purpose of this list of contacts/The Lucas Workers' Initiative /A strategy for peace/What is CAITS?/List of contacts/Litterature.

Countries covered:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, East Germany, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, the United States, West Germany.

The list is available for NOK 40.-, but may be delivered in exchange for a book on a corresponding topic in English or German.

For further information:

Institutt for Meningsfull Produksjon
(Institute for Socially Useful Production)
Bökeskogen Kulturcenter
N-3250 Larvik
Norway
Telephone: (034) 81720

DIRECTORY OF ENERGY INFORMATION CENTRES IN THE WORLD

Second Edition

Published by:

Institut Français de l'Energie
3, rue Henri-Heine
75016 Paris
France

PUBLICATIONS/BOOKS

FAST FINAL REPORT

The FAST team (Forecasting and Assessment in the field of Science and Technology) of the European Communities has produced a preliminary version of its "final report". The document - representing a synthesis of the results of the first three and half years of activity of the programme - is currently circulated within the European institutions for comments and evaluation.

It summarizes the results of 36 research projects carried out in co-operation with 54 European centres as well as FAST's own in-house work.

It also contains a proposal for the continuation of a Community based activity on long term research on science, technology, economics from mid-83 onwards.

For further Information:

Ricardo Petrella
Directorate General for Science, Research and Development
Commission of the European Communities
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

MIHAIL FLORESCU

From Social Inequity to Ecological Disequilibrium
University Press
Bucharest, 1982

HABITAT RESEARCH

"With this publication, we attempt to spread information about the habitat research at the Schools of Architecture and Civil Engineering. In this way, we hope to come in contact with private persons, institutions, authorities and businesses interested in habitat matters in developing countries."

For further information:

Lund Committee on Habitat and Development Studies
School of Architecture/School of Civil Engineering
Lund Institute of Technology/Lund University
Box 725
S-220 07 Lund, Sweden

PUBLICATIONS/BOOKS

JESSICA LIPNACK & JEFFREY STAMPS

Networking: The First Report and Directory
Doubleday and Company, 1982

Discovering Another America; One Very Special Network;
Healing Networks; Sharing Networks; Using Networks; Valuing
Networks; Learning Networks, Growing Networks, Evolving
Networks; A Model of Structure and Process; Evolution,
Systems, and Networks; and The Art of Networking.

For further information:

Networking
P.O. Box 66
West Newton, MA 07165
USA

V.V. NALIMOV

Realms of the Unconscious: The Enchanted Frontier
Edited by Robert G. Colodny, University of Pittsburgh

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Comments regarding reproduced contents of journals on
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It is a great pleasure to include a Third World
Futures Studies Journal: The Arab Alternative Futures
Dossier.

An example of the content in a member Newsletter (the
Swiss Association for Futures Studies) is given in this
issue.

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY
ARAB ALTERNATIVE FUTURES

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★ **Scientific Research Amidst the Storm**

By: Ismail-Sabri ABDALLA

★ **Building Blocks**

The impact of oil wealth on social values in the Arab society.

★ **Contributions :**

The Beni-Mellal declaration on Development and future prospectives (in French)

By: The Moroccan Association for prospective studies.

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By: Mehdi El-Mangra

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alternatives
A JOURNAL OF WORLD POLICY

Editors

RAJNI KOTHARI
SAUL H. MENDLOVITZ

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FALL 1982

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CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF DEVELOPING SOCIETIES
INSTITUTE FOR WORLD ORDER

FUTURE SURVEY

A Monthly Abstract of Books, Articles, and Reports Concerning Forecasts, Trends, and Ideas about the Future

A Publication of the World Future Society

Editor: Michael Marien



Volume 4, Number 9

September 1982

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- I. Global Modelling 82-707/82-715
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I. GLOBAL MODELLING

Groping in the Dark: The First Decade of Global Modelling. Donella Meadows (Assoc Prof of Environmental Studies, Dartmouth College), John M. Richardson Jr (Prof of International Affairs, American U), and Gerhart Bruckmann (Director, Vienna Institute for Advanced Studies). NY: John Wiley & Sons, June 1982/311p/\$26.95pb.

An outgrowth of the Sixth IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis) Symposium on Global Modelling, held in September 1981. A model is any simplified, generalized image of reality. Maps, toy trucks, corporate balance sheets, and equations are all models. A good model is not just any simplification, but one that distills the essence of a complicated and confusing world, allowing one to achieve a particular purpose. Mental models are often useful because they include information about intangibles, can facilitate, creative associations and analogies, and are quick and readily available. Computer models may sometimes be more useful than mental models because they are rigorous and precise, contain many variables, always draw logical conclusions from their assumptions, and can be tested and changed very quickly. Global models are computer models that address social problems of global scope such as resource depletion, poverty and hunger, inequities in international trade, population growth, and environmental degradation. The first global model was published by Jay Forrester in 1971 (*World Dynamics*, Cambridge, MA: Wright-Allen Press), and led to the widely-known first report to the Club of Rome, *The Limits to Growth* (Universe Books, 1972). [NOTE: For the record, it should be noted—particularly because others have not done so—that the same arguments were made 19 years earlier by Samuel H. Ordway Jr. in *Resources and the American Dream: Including a Theory of the Limit of Growth* (NY: Ronald Press, 1953), and by Fairfield Osborn, in *The Limits of the Earth* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1953). The important lesson here is that what is said may not be nearly as important as *when* it is said, *how* it is said, and the authority—and technology—behind it.]

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

The following items may be of particular interest for their importance and/or originality:

- *82-707 **Groping in the Dark** (Meadows *et al*, Wiley)
- *82-714 **Making It Happen: A Positive Guide to the Future** (Richardson, US Assn for Club of Rome)
- *82-724 **Global Mini-Nationalisms** (Snyder, Greenwood)
- *82-740 **U.S. Foreign Policy and the Third World: Agenda 1982** (Hansen, Overseas Development Council)
- *82-756 **Four "New Japans" Mounting Industrial Challenge** (Lohr, *New York Times*)
- *82-769 **Misunderstanding Africa** (Smiley, *The Atlantic*)
- *82-776 **Energy—A Global Outlook** (Taher, Pergamon)
- *82-781 **Awaiting the Next Oil Crisis** (Yergin, *New York Times Magazine*)
- *82-784 **Brittle Power: Energy for National Security** (Lovins/Lovins, Brick House)

Since 1971, about ten other global models have been developed. Seven of these have been brought to a stage of sufficient completion and documentation to serve as the focus of this book. After two brief introductory chapters, each of the seven models is described in Chapter Three: 1) The Forrester/Meadows models: the best-known of these, *World3*, was described in *The Limits to Growth*; 2) The Mesarovic/Pestel Model, described in the second report to the Club of Rome, *Mankind at the Turning Point* (E.P. Dutton/Reader's Digest, 1974); 3) The Bariloche Model, developed by a Latin American group; 4) The MOIRA Model of international relations in agriculture, developed by a group primarily at the Free University of Amsterdam; 5) The SARU model, sponsored by the UK Department of the Environment; 6) The FUGI model developed in Japan and the first to rely heavily on input-output analysis; and 7) The United Nations global model directed by Wassily Leontief. Chapter Four presents the responses of each of these global modellers, to a questionnaire having to do with their purposes and goals, methodological problems, actors and policy variables, structural aspects, testing, organizing modelling work, and modeller-client relations. Chapter Five, "The State of the Art as Seen by the Artists," summarizes conference sessions at the IIASA Symposium and the questionnaire comments.

The sixth and final chapter offers a broader summary of what global models have taught us. Areas of dis-

FUTURES

Volume 14 Number 5

October 1982

Space — past, present, and future

A special issue edited by Michiel Schwarz and Paul Stares

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international foundation for development alternatives
fundación internacional para alternativas de desarrollo
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ifda dossier 32 , november/december 1982

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An International Journal

Volume 22, Number 2, October 1982

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Dreimal Zukunft...

- Ob die Russen wirklich kommen, weiss ich nicht; ich weiss nur, dass die Amerikaner schon da sind.

Unbekannt

- Die moderne Gesellschaft übersieht, dass die Welt nicht das Eigentum einer einzigen Generation ist.

Kokoschka

- Kein grosses Ereignis wirft seine Schatten voraus.

Gerhard Kocher

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